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**Date: December 28, 1999**

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that the following reference(s) be considered in the examination of the above-identified patent application:

<u>U.S. Patent No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
4,652,999	03/24/87	Higashi et al.

Fuji CR Processing web pages (22 pages), author unknown, date unknown,  
<<http://www.fujindt.com/medical>>, printed November 18, 1999.

“PACS Basic Principles and Applications”, H. K. Huang, D.Sc., Chapters 7, 8, 12, pgs.  
199-231, 305-342, 177-198.

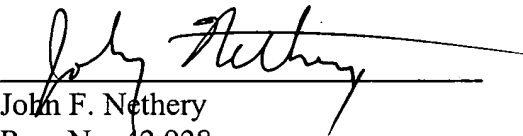
The above-identified reference(s) are listed on the attached PTO Form 1449 and copies are also enclosed herewith.

This submission, is in no way intended as an admission that the above-cited references constitute prior art under any subsection of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Applicant expressly retains the right to take any actions necessary to remove the above-cited references from the available prior art.

Consideration of the above-identified references in the examination of the present patent application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 28, 1999

  
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John F. Nethery  
Reg. No. 42,928